

PURE RELIGION

The Tip of the Iceberg

Scientists estimate that usually only one-eighth of an iceberg is visible. The remaining seven-eighths is under water and unseen. Jayne Hartman of Salt Lake City, Utah, is a little like an iceberg. Ask her about her life and she'll tell you she's been a public servant, worked as a secretary, and done some volunteer work. The real story of Jayne Hartman is what she doesn't talk about.

In 1942, the nation went to war and Jayne Hartman enlisted in the U.S. Army. She did clerical work at several bases and, eventually, was accepted as a candidate for officer's school. She became a 1st lieutenant and spent the rest of the war supervising others.

In 1945, Jayne retired from the Army and spent 23 years doing clerical work for a subsidiary company of General Motors. When she retired from that career, her bishop told her about a secretarial position in the LDS Church Office Building. So, at 59 years of age, Jayne applied for the position and was hired—as secretary to President Spencer W. Kimball, then President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

When she turned 65, Jayne retired from Church employment. “I could have stayed home and become a couch potato,” she says, “but I figured if I could be of service somewhere, I could spend a day or two a week helping out.”

In June of 1983, Jayne began volunteering at Welfare Square at the LDS Employment Resource Center. There, she helped with the books, prepared invoices, and assisted with payroll.

Twenty years later, Jayne is still at her desk in the Welfare Square Employment Resource Center.

“Those who don't get involved in serving others,” she says, “are missing some of the best experiences of life. They're missing getting to know people, making friends, doing things that help others, and experiences that make their lives fuller and happier.”



Even though Jayne has had three cornea transplants and is suffering from macular degeneration, she plans to keep working. “The Lord has blessed me,” she says. “I'm 88 years-old, and every day I just keep putting one foot in front of the other.”

Over the last 20 years, Jayne has volunteered at the employment center and at the area welfare finance office. “There are a lot of things I can't do,” she says. “I wouldn't be a very good Relief Society President, but I'm a pretty good secretary.”

Ask her about her years of service and Jayne Hartman will likely smile and say, “it's really nothing to brag about.”

At the Employment Resource Center, for example, is a book that lists the biographies of the dozens of people who have volunteered there over the years. Most people have a full page of text describing their history and their activities while serving as volunteers. Next to Jayne's picture are three short sentences explaining that she has a daughter and seven grandchildren, that she has done some secretarial work, and that she has done volunteer work at the employment center.

But that is the kind of thing people smile about when they talk of Jayne Hartman. For, like an iceberg, the part that is visible is only a hint of what is underneath.